

**Meeting Notes – Multi-Agency Federal MOU Work Group
November 06, 2002**

Attendees

Tony Bush, NRCS (920.490.8004)	Tom Weaver, USGS (906.786.0714)
Jerry Thompson, NRCS (715.832.6547 x.115)	Pat Pelky, Oneida (920.497.5812)
Clara Gatewood-Brown, FEMA (312.408.5322)	Jennifer Hill Kelley, Oneida (920.497.5812)
Paul Lahr, IHS (218.444.0504)	Casey Ambutas, USEPA (312.353.1394)
Gary Schuettpelz, Menominee (715.799.6152)	Steven Dodge, USEPA (715.799.4612)
Richard Ackley, Bad River (920.429.9194)	Jeff Mears, Oneida (920.497.5812)
John Breuninger, Oneida (920.869.4526)	Jennifer Manville, USEPA (231.922.4769)

Follow-up from August 07, 2002 Meeting/Administrative Business

The following agenda items have been tabled at the preceding two Work Group meetings, due to an absence of one or more agency liaisons: (1) amendment to the MOU Charter concerning frequency and location of meetings; (2) use of funds remaining from the August 2000 planning conference. In an effort to move forward on these items, it was agreed that U.S. EPA will prepare a summary of options for each of the two items and submit these options to each MOU signatory agency. Agencies will be requested to select their preferred option for each item. Results will be finalized at the next Work Group meeting.

The agency liaison from the Economic Development Administration has inquired whether the Work Group has developed/maintained a comprehensive list of e-mail addresses for the agencies and tribes that receive notice of the Work Group meetings. While most agencies have developed their own e-mail lists pertaining to the contacts they work with, there is no comprehensive list currently available. If an agency would like to volunteer to compile and maintain a list, the other agencies could contribute their information.

The Work Group received two suggestions from tribal participants: (1) HUD should be involved in the Work Group; (2) future meetings should be coordinated with tribal colleges to increase participation.

Development of a Water Issues Spreadsheet

Instead of developing a spreadsheet characterizing water issues/needs by tribe, which would require maintenance of another document, the Work Group agreed to consider a two-part approach to encourage coordination among federal agencies when responding to tribal water resource issues.

In the short-term, the Work Group agreed to create a reference guide for tribal staff that would define the various types of agency assistance that may be available for different water resource issues and activities. The reference guide could be beneficial for both tribal staff (a summary of assistance available from federal agencies) and federal staff (identify potential partners for projects). In addition, once the reference guide is completed the compiled information can be used to determine what barriers to tribal participation continue to exist in certain federal programs.

U.S. EPA will prepare a draft format for the reference guide, identifying the initial water resource topics and/or activities, with a brief description of each. The draft format will be sent to the federal agencies by November 20, 2002. Agencies are asked to develop their input for each topic and return

that information to U.S. EPA by December 20, 2002. A draft reference guide will be prepared and submitted to tribal staff for review and comment by the first week in January 2003. Tribal comments will be due by February 01, 2003. The Work Group will discuss finalizing the document and distribution at the February 2003 meeting.

The Work Group also briefly discussed a more long-term approach to coordinating federal assistance for specific tribal water resource priorities. One possible option would be to use the tribal priority information generated during the annual strategic planning process that U.S. EPA conducts with the tribes. During this process, each tribe identifies its environmental priorities (including water-related issues) and U.S. EPA develops a response that outlines applicable Agency assistance. Potentially, these tribal priorities could be shared with other federal agencies to identify other applicable assistance. Further discussion by the Work Group and with the tribes is needed.

Cross-Reference Document for Agency Strategic Plans

At the August Work Group meeting, the participating federal agencies provided summaries of their internal strategic planning processes, and it was suggested that the Work Group attempt to coordinate their strategic planning that pertains to tribes.

It was determined that some agencies are undergoing revisions to their strategic plans, and do not have a document to present to the Work Group. A suggestion was made instead to explore the concept of ISO 14000. The Bad River Band of Chippewa has undertaken a project to use ISO for their environmental management programs. Potentially, the federal agencies in the Work Group could use the principles of ISO in their interaction with each other as well as with the tribes. It was agreed that a general presentation on ISO should be scheduled for the February 2003 Work Group meeting, and a specific presentation on the Bad River project be scheduled for a later meeting. In the meantime, agencies are asked to continue to pull together their strategic planning documents. After the ISO presentation, the Work Group will revisit the issue of coordinating the strategic planning documents.

Tribal Open Forum

In October 2002, Oneida hosted a meeting of the National Tribal Air Association. A tribal representative for Region 5 is needed for this organization. The Wisconsin tribes have proposed Gary Schuettpelz from the Menominee Tribe. Selection of the Region 5 representative needs to be addressed at the December 2002 meeting of the U.S. EPA Region 5 Regional Tribal Operations Committee.

A number of tribes are attempting to deal with outbreaks of mold on the interior of residences and other buildings on the reservations. Members have concerns and many questions about health effects. Tribal councils are struggling with appropriate response and believe they are at a disadvantage when third-party contractors propose work on the reservation. Various federal agencies potentially have roles in addressing this issue and working with the tribes – U.S. EPA, IHS, BIA, HUD, and ATSDR. It was suggested that the Work Group could coordinate a joint agency response to the mold concerns.

The Work Group agreed to coordinate an initial conference call between the relevant agencies. The conference call could address the following issues: (1) role of each agency; (2) programs, resources, assistance available; (3) testing standards/criteria; (4) options for a multi-agency response (including outreach/education, remediation, etc.). U.S. EPA will approach agencies listed above to identify a

staff contact for the conference call.

Oneida reported that they will be hosting an indoor air quality training on mold issues the first week in January 2003. Topics would include: (1) general information on mold, sources of mold, health effects, testing, remediation, homeowner education, and other general topics; (2) training on remediation, worker safety and protection, and other maintenance issues; (3) resources for funding remediation/remodeling projects. The intended audience would be tribal officials, housing authorities, maintenance workers, tribal health departments, physicians, community health departments, environmental management departments, and other interested individuals. For more information, contact Jeff Mears at (920) 497-5812.

Announcements of Upcoming Training/Meetings

11/19/02	U.S. EPA R5 staff training "Working Effectively with Tribal Governments", Chicago
11/19-21/02	U.S. EPA Tribal Enforcement Conference, Kansas City
11/25/02	Tribal Wind Energy Meeting, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Sault Ste. Marie, MI
12/04/02	U.S. EPA Region 5 Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, Chicago
01/03	Tribal Planners Work Group meeting (potentially week of January 24 th), Oneida
06/9-13/03	American Indian/Native Alaskan Employees Association Conference (to discuss Section 106 MOU between USDA and National Historic Preservation Department), Fond du Lac, MN

IHS provided a handout from the Environmental Health Support Center, listing the training courses offered for Fiscal Year 2003. Training coordinator contact information was also provided. This handout is included in the meeting notes.

Federal and Tribal Agency Roundtable Updates

FEMA reported on the following new programs:

- C Citizens Corps Program – establish citizen councils on each reservation.
- C Pre-disaster mitigation program – identify risks on the reservation and develop a mitigation plan (6 tribes have been funded).
- C Tribal Community Assessment of Response Program.

U.S. EPA reported on the new regulations under the Clean Water Act for storm water permits at construction sites. The new regulations go into effect March 2003. Projects on reservation that disturb more than 1 acre of land will need to obtain a NPDES permit from U.S. EPA. Agency is considering development of a general permit that would cover Indian Country. The permit would require a storm water prevention plan for each site.

Thompson distributed a packet of information sheets on the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill).

Although BIA could not attend the meeting, an update was provided to be presented to the Work Group. A copy of the BIA update is included with the meeting notes.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting of the Work Group will be February 12, 2003, in Chicago, Illinois. FEMA has

offered to host the meeting, dependent on availability of meeting space. U.S. EPA will be the back-up location. Suggestions for agenda items should be forwarded to Jennifer Manville either via fax at (231.922.4499) or e-mail at manville.jennifer@epa.gov.